to apply under open category for setting up LPG distributorships. Within this open category, other things being equal, consumer cooperative societies are given preference over other applicants.

(b) Based on the above policy, Oil Marketing Companies have awarded 100 LPG distributorship to cooperative societies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In addition to the above, Oil Companies can allot direct distributorships to cooperative societies of the project, which cater to the LPG requirement of the employees of the project only in their respective colonies.

National Social Assistance Programme

1877. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the date since when the National Social Assistance Programme is being implemented in Orissa;

(b) the main objectives of the programme;

(c) the criteria followed for providing assistance under the programme;

(d) the category-wise details of persons benefited there from so far in the State of Orissa particularly in Kalahandi and Nuapada districts separately; and

(e) the amount of financial assistant provided to the State so far particularly for these two district under the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO VARMA) : (a) The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is being implemented in Orissa since 15.8.1995.

(b) The main objectives of the programme are as under:-

(i) to provide social assistance benefits to poor households in case of old age, death of the breadwinner and maternity.

(ii) To ensure minimum national standards of Central assistance in addition to the benefits that States are currently providing or might provide in future.

(iii) To provide opportunities for linking the social assistance package to schemes for poverty alleviation and the provision of basic needs.

(c) The NSAP has three components; these are :-

(i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS);

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and

(iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)

The specific criteria for each component are as follows:

(i) NOAPS : Central Assistance under the National Old Age Pension is available subject to the following criteria.

(a) The age of the applicant (male/female) shall be 65 age of above.

(b) The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from his/her own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. If the criteria adopted by State/UT Government to determine destitution prior to the introduction of NOAPS are more liberal than those prescribed by the Central Government, the State/UT Government are free to adopt them.

(c) The amount of Old Age Pension shall be Rs.75/- per month.

(d) The total number old age pensions should not exceed the numerical ceiling prescribed for State/UTs.

(ii) NFBS – Central Assistance under the National Family Benefit Scheme is available to households below the povertyline in the event of the death of the primary breadwinner in the bereaved family subject to the satisfaction of the following criteria.

(a) The Primary breadwinner is the member of the household-male or female-whose earnings contribute the largest proportion to the total household income.

(b) The death of such a primary breadwinner should have occurred whilst he or she was in the age group 18 to 64 years i.e. more than 18 years of age and less than 65 years of age.

(c) The bereaved household is below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

(d) Rs. 5000/- per person in the case of death due to natural causes and Rs. 10,000 per person in the case of death due to accidental causes will be the ceilings for the purpose of claiming Central assistance

(e) The number of such cases should be within the numerical ceiling prescribed.

(iii) NMBS – The Maternity Benefit is available as lumpsum case assistance to women of households below the poverty line subject to the following conditions :

(a) The benefit is restricted to pregnant women upto the first two live births provided they are 19 years of age and above.

(b) The beneficiaries should belong to households below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

(c) The ceiling on the amount of benefit is Rs.300/-

(d) The number of such cases should be within the numerical ceiling prescribed for the State/UT.

(d) The requisite information is given below :-

Name of the scheme	Number of beneficiaries in.		
	State as a whole	Kalahandi	Nuapada
1. NOAPS	251982	10123	4202
2. NFBS	2632	90	50
3. NMBS	46422	1765	586

(e) The funds released to the State as well as two districts of Kalahandi and Nuapeda are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Funds release during		
	1995-96	1996-97	Total
State-Orissa			
1. NOAPS	784.08	2290.13	3074.21
2. NFBS	510.69	146.50	657.19
3. NMBS	240.08	395.30	635.38
Distt. Kalahandi			
1. NOAPS	28.00	91.06	119.06
2. NFBS	18.23	22.69	40.92
3. NMBS	8.58	14.12	22.70
Distt. Nuapada			
1. NOAPS	11.63	37.74	49.37
2. NFBS	7.57	–	7.57
3. NMBS	3.56	5.87	9.43

Special Grants to States

1878. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought a special grant of Rs. 1000 crores from the Planning Commission to cope with mass influx of population from outside the State;

(b) whether the Government have agreed to provide the above grant; and

(c) whether the Government are considering such special grants of other States similarly affected by large scale influx of outsiders and infiltration of foreigners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No specific proposal has been received as yet from the Government of Maharashtra on this issue. However, in the meeting held on 29th January, 1997 between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the question of providing of Special Central Assistance of Rs. 1000 crore to improve the basic amenities of Mumbai was raised by Chief Minister, Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

1879. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of electrification done during each of the last three years in the country till date year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the current financial year;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the proportion of electrification in rural and urban areas;

(e) whether Union Government propose of privatise the electrification system in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The